

well as on the bottom of the river, and it is taking. We are seeing our oyster crops increase dramatically, which is helping the economy of the watermen of Maryland in our region.

Oysters are also a filtering agent for the Chesapeake Bay. They cleanse the water. They give us a better quality water in the Chesapeake Bay, which helps all species and the future of the Chesapeake Bay. We were down to a small percentage of the historic crop of oysters when we started the recovery program. Now that we have been in the recovery program, we are recovering a significant number of oysters. We are not there yet; we have got a lot more to do. But this extra Federal help in oyster recovery will certainly help in that regard.

Oysters also, by the way, build the infrastructure for the different species within the Bay. They actually become what the living organisms can live on and produce the type of food chain necessary for a healthy diversity within the Chesapeake Bay. So I was particularly pleased that the committee recommended my amendment to increase our programs for oyster recovery.

This bill also deals with clean water. In the 111th Congress, when I was chair of the Water Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I filed S. 1005, which deals with our State revolving funds. Let me explain for my colleagues—I think most know—that the State revolving funds are the major Federal partnership to help local governments deal with safe drinking water and clean water.

Wastewater treatment is done through State revolving funds. We have taken some actions in order to modernize this program. In this WRDA bill, we incorporate many of the elements of the legislation that I filed that will update and improve the revolving loan programs. It makes it much more predictable and flexible for our States, so they can plan their projects accordingly, which is critically important for safe drinking water and economic growth. We expand the eligibility to include preconstruction, to deal with replacement and rehab, and for the first time allow these funds to be used for source water protection plans so that we actually can make sure we are getting safe water into our water supply.

We also allow for the prioritization of sustainability, and we provide incentives for water efficiency that is cost saving and uses better technology, so that the way we handle our water can be done with less leakage, less waste, less energy, and more efficiency, which saves money.

There is \$900 million authorized for the Water Resources Research Act, and I was pleased to offer that to the committee, and I was pleased it was included in the final bill that is before the committee.

Let me talk for a moment about public health. The WRDA bill also deals with public health, which is very important. I know every Member is aware

of what happened in Flint, MI, on lead poisoning. We know how tragic that was. We know how many families and children were directly impacted by decisions that were made there. This bill does much to deal with the tragedies in Flint, but Flint is not unique in the risk factors to our children on the exposures to lead.

I can give Baltimore City as an example. The schools in Baltimore City have turned off their water fountains because it would not be safe for the children in schools to use the water fountains that are there. The pipes that lead into the schools are contaminated by lead. The city doesn't have the resources to replace those pipes that come in and therefore have closed the water fountains and use bottled water instead.

So we have problems in our water infrastructure in America as it relates to the vulnerability of exposure to excessive lead. I think the Presiding Officer is aware that there is no acceptable level of lead in a child's blood. We know that lead in the blood of children has an impact on their capacity to grow. I will give one example. Freddie Gray, who was tragically killed over a year ago in a police incident that caused a disturbance in Baltimore, had high levels of lead from his youth in his blood.

These are matters we could take steps to correct, and this WRDA bill does exactly that. First, it takes many of the provisions of the bill that I filed working with many of my colleagues. It called for true leadership. We put together many of our ideas on what we can do to combat lead poisoning. I put that bill together with my colleagues and filed that bill with Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER's leadership. We were able to incorporate many of those provisions—most of those provisions into this WRDA bill that is now before the U.S. Senate so that we will be able to give public notice and transparency when public officials discover an unacceptably high level of lead in the water system. The public will know, and they can avoid the risks.

We are providing money for testing of schools, testing of childcare centers, and individual children. In Maryland every child between 1 and 2 years of age will be tested to see whether they have excessive lead levels in their blood. There is truly an all-out effort.

There is one provision I want to underscore. There is \$300 million in this bill so we can secure the last line of pipe coming from the main sources into homes. There are a lot of individuals, families, and low-income families who live in homes where the water system itself is safe but the pipes that lead into their home produce lead and subject their families to lead poisoning. They don't have the resources to correct it, and this bill provides a program where low-income families can get help in correcting the pipes that feed into their house to make sure they are lead-free so their children aren't susceptible to lead poisoning.

These are all good-news issues. I appreciate the time and attention given to this, but I wanted to emphasize that this bill is a very important bill. It contains issues, as I said, from protecting our environment to our public health, to our economy. It is a bill that deserves the strong support of the Members of the Senate. I hope my colleagues in the House will also approve this bill.

It reflects the hard work and leadership of Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER and the Environment and Public Works Committee and many Members of the Senate. I am very proud to support this legislation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

#### HONORING CORPORAL BILL COOPER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of Corporal Bill Cooper of the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office. Corporal Cooper gave his life in the line of duty on August 10, 2016. As a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who spent 15 years in the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office and 6 years with the Ft. Smith Police Department, Bill Cooper was a true public servant.

Corporal Cooper was remembered by his colleagues as a model law enforcement officer who did things the right way. He loved the men and women he worked with, and he exemplified what many in law enforcement aspire to, which was being an officer who never failed to show how much he cared about his community.

As such, he continued to serve long after he was eligible to retire. Cooper was also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who loved his family very, very much. Last month, Corporal Cooper responded to a domestic call involving an armed suspect near Hackett, AR. The suspect opened fire on Cooper and Hackett police chief Darrell Spells.

Corporal Cooper was fatally wounded. Chief Spells and Greenwood K-9 officer Kina were injured. The suspect later surrendered and was taken into police custody. In a true testament to the impact that Corporal Cooper had on so many who served with him or knew him, he was laid to rest at a funeral service attended by several thousand people, including law enforcement officers from across the State and around the country. His colleagues and friends

remembered him to have always treated citizens with respect and dignity, while also being a loyal partner and friend.

While our hearts break for those who knew him, we also respect and admire Corporal Cooper for his lifetime of service. He truly was someone who ran toward danger in order to protect others. Corporal Cooper was a hero, and today we honor his sacrifice. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ruth, his son Scott, along with many other family members, friends, and colleagues in the law enforcement community.

I humbly and sincerely offer my condolences and my gratitude to them as they grieve for Bill. Bill was a classmate of mine at the Northside High School in Fort Smith. We as a class are very, very proud of him for his sacrifice, for our safety, but also, and certainly as important, the way he lived his life. May we always remember Corporal Cooper's life and legacy of service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the U.S. International Trade Commission, or the USITC, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. That makes today an appropriate day for us to acknowledge the distinguished service that this independent and nonpartisan Federal agency has provided, and continues to provide, in the field of international trade.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I concur with Senator HATCH and also congratulate the USITC on its centennial and commend the agency for its service over the last century.

Established by the Congress as the U.S. Tariff Commission on September 8, 1916, the agency was reconfigured and redesignated as the USITC by the Trade Act of 1974. As mandated by Congress, the USITC performs three principal functions: No. 1, fairly and objectively administer U.S. trade remedy laws within its mandate; No. 2, provide the Congress, the President, and the United States Trade Representative with independent analysis, information, and support concerning matters related to international trade, tariffs, and U.S. competitiveness; and No. 3 maintain the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

By successfully executing these functions, the USITC performs a valuable service to the U.S. Government and the American people. Those of us in Con-

gress particularly appreciate the highly technical data and analyses that the USITC provides to help inform our formulation of U.S. trade policy.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, of course, the core of the USITC's success derives from the agency's people. For decades now, the impressive and skilled commissioners and staff at the USITC have driven the agency's success. We congratulate the USITC for reaching this centennial milestone and for accomplishing a well-deserved tenure of valuable and professional service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE JEFFERSONTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT ANGEL PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have spoken many times on this floor about the threat that opioid abuse represents to our country. Rates of substance abuse have been on the rise in recent years, and Kentucky has been hit particularly hard by this epidemic. A recent State report from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy said that, last year, over 1,200 deaths in the Commonwealth were caused by drug abuse.

Well, I am glad to share with my colleagues some good news in the fight against opioid abuse in Kentucky. This August, I visited with and saw up close a program that is changing how law enforcement deals with drug addiction, a program that is saving lives. It is the Jeffersontown Angel Program, an initiative spearheaded by the Jeffersontown, KY, Police Department.

At the Jeffersontown Police Department, a priority has been placed on getting treatment for folks who request help for their addiction to opiates by connecting them with local treatment facilities. In many cases, those with substance-abuse disorders can be taken immediately to a treatment facility to start their recovery. People who abuse drugs can also turn over their drugs or drug equipment without being charged with a crime.

The new Jeffersontown Police Department Angel Program is the first of its kind in Kentucky. It is modeled after a successful program launched in Gloucester, MA, in 2015, which has so far referred more than 450 people to treatment and produced a 33 percent reduction in property crime rates.

That evidence was enough to convince Jeffersontown Police Chief Ken Hatmaker. "When you can have a 33 percent drop in property crime," he says, "I'm going to listen."

While the Jeffersontown Police Department remains strenuously committed to investigating, pursuing, and arresting drug traffickers to the fullest extent of the law, the Angel Program helps reduce those traffickers' clientele by working to remove the stigma of addiction and making it easier to access recovery programs.

Fighting drug abuse is a cause I have embraced here in the Senate as well, and it has been a focus of mine for

many years. I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth speaking with people, learning about the scope of substance abuse in my State, and working with Kentuckians to combat it.

A few years ago, I convened a listening session in northern Kentucky, a region particularly hard hit by this epidemic, to hear from informed Kentuckians in the medical, public health, and law-enforcement fields. I testified before the Senate's Drug Caucus to share my findings with my colleagues.

I have also met with the Nation's Director of National Drug Control Policy—better known as the drug czar—and successfully persuaded him to visit Kentucky to see firsthand the damage done by drugs. His visit and greater Federal funding for law enforcement in Kentucky have both been a part of a multilayered strategy to stop drug trafficking.

I also made it a priority to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, a bill I was proud to see recently signed into law. CARA is a comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid drug epidemic that bolsters treatment, prevention and recovery efforts, and gives law enforcement tools to help those already suffering with addiction and help prevent more senseless loss of life.

CARA authorizes new grants for vital, lifesaving programs to help treat those suffering from drug addiction. It also includes several important policy reforms. It will expand treatment by giving prescribing authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants to administer medication-assisted treatments for opioid addiction. It will increase the availability of naloxone, which can instantly reverse a drug overdose, to law enforcement agencies and other first responders. And it will strengthen and enhance prescription drug monitoring programs to crack down on "doctor shopping."

Substance abuse destroys lives. It increases crime, rips apart families, and leaves too many bodies in its wake. I want to commend the Jeffersontown Police Department for launching the Angel Program and leading the way in Kentucky in efforts to battle substance abuse. With the good work done by the Jeffersontown Police Department, along with the continued efforts we are doing here in Congress, I believe we can fight back against this scourge of addiction, and reduce its devastating effects.

The Louisville Courier-Journal recently published an article describing the Jeffersontown Police Department's Angel Program. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: